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Letter dated 9 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward the attached press release issued today, 9 June 2000, entitled "Eritrea accepts OAU proposal on cessation of hostilities".

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haile **Menkerios**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release: Eritrea accepts OAU proposal on cessation of hostilities

Eritrea has accepted an OAU proposal for an immediate cessation of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea. It has formally communicated its acceptance to the OAU through a letter from the Eritrean Foreign Minister, Haile Weldensae, to the Special Envoy of the OAU, Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia.

The OAU proposal, which has the full backing of the OAU's partners in the peace effort, the United States of America and the European Union, was presented to the two parties today in Algiers.

In addition to an immediate cessation of hostilities, which has been a key and consistent Eritrean demand for the past two years, the proposal provides for the withdrawal of invading Ethiopian troops from Eritrean territory, after the early deployment of a "peacekeeping mission deployed by the United Nations under the auspices of the OAU". The mandate of the peacekeeping mission extends until the demarcation of the border between the two countries.

In the Algiers proximity talks, Eritrea, which had earlier redeployed its troops to the positions they held before the outbreak of the conflict and from additional areas on the basis of the appeal of the OAU, had asked that Ethiopia follow suit. But in an effort to torpedo the talks, Ethiopia presented preconditions for redeployment, namely the provision by the international community of "security guarantees". Although Eritrea rejected the Ethiopian position as preposterous and totally unjustified, it has decided to respond positively to the appeal of the OAU and its partners and "to go an extra mile for peace".

Noting that it has gone beyond fulfilling its commitments "to give peace a chance", Eritrea has called on the international community to take "strong action" against Ethiopia, in the event that Addis Ababa rejects the OAU proposal or pretends to accept while continuing its war against Eritrea.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Asmara, 9 June 2000